(c) what is the present policy for recruitment ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The parameters for recruitment in Defence Services have been modified to provide mainly for higher educational qualification keeping in view the growth of technology in the Defence Sector.

(c) The recruitment of officers in Army, Air Force and Navy is carried out on the basis of all India open competition through the Union Public Service Commission or directly through the Services Selection Board.

The recruitment of sailors in Navy and Airmen in Air Force is done through open competition on all India merit basis. However, recruitment of Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in Army is made through open rallies held periodically in States on the basis of vacancies allotted to them in proportion of their 'recruitable male population', and their share of Regimental vacancies. Part recruitment is also done through Regimental Centres.

Supply of Shells to Army

†2779. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Sena ko ghatia golon kee aapoorti" published in 'The Dainik Jagaran' dated the 13th March, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction on the whole issue; and

(c) what procedure has been followed for investigation and by when investigation would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A contract dated 21-1-1993 was signed with M/s Pitcare Ltd., Honkong for supply of 10000 rounds of 130mm and 6700 rounds of 122mm illuminating ammunition for an amount of USD 6.12 million. The Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon intimated in September 1993 the receipt of consignment of 10000 nos of 130mm illuminating ammunition from Hongkong against the contract. Since the consignment was received without technical literature and range tables, the check proof was delayed. The check proof was conducted in August, 1995 on receipt of fuze setting key and range tables from the firm. Ten rounds were fired of which three recorded defects.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The consignment was subjected to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December, 1995 out of which 12 rounds recorded failures. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the ammunition during check proof, the consignment was recommended as "Not fit for Use"and quality claim raised against the firm.

The case is being referred to CBI for investigation. Further action will be taken on receipt of CBI's report.

Purchase of T-90 Tanks from Russia

†2780. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) wether Government are considering to purchase T-90 tanks from Russia inspite of the fact that these tanks were rejected earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejecting first and purchasing now;

(c) the test report of these tanks; and

(d) whether these tanks are better than Pakistani tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir, These tanks were not rejected earlier.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) AHQ have submitted General Staff Evaluation Report recommending induction of these tanks into service.

(d) The comparative analysis suggests that T-90S tank is superior to all known tanks in service with Pakistan.

Massacre of Sikhs in J & K

†2781. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether armed terrorists had shot dead 37 innocent sikhs at Chattisinghpura village in Anantnag district in Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.